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Streamlined wind for Maryland and efficiency upgrades for Montgomery County

What's happening at MEA

Last month, the [Maryland Energy Administration](#) joined Secretary Ken Salazar of the [US Department of the Interior \(DOI\)](#) in announcing a streamlining of the federal regulatory process for offshore wind development. The initiative, led by DOI, is designed to identify priority Wind Energy Areas (WEA) for potential development under an accelerated leasing process with the goal of spurring the rapid and responsible development of this renewable resource.

Governor O'Malley has made offshore wind a priority in Maryland's efforts to generate 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2022, and MEA Director Malcolm Woolf recently highlighted the Governor's efforts at the Maryland Offshore Wind Conference, which was held in Annapolis on Dec. 4. The conference was attended by hundreds of wind and renewable energy activists, and underscored the importance of moving forward toward a cleaner energy future.

Beyond offshore wind, December was filled with exciting news in the field of energy efficiency. On Dec. 1, MEA announced \$2 million in grants for energy improvements. These grants went to projects in each of Maryland's counties and the city of Baltimore. And just today, MEA announced that the popular Appliance Rebate Program exceeded all expectations by saving Marylanders a projected \$19.4 million over the life of the appliances, all without spending a single dollar of State of Maryland tax revenue.

Learn more by reading [MEA press releases](#).

MEA enhances the energy efficiency benefits of a Montgomery County renovation



Before renovations began in November of 2009, the then 71-year-old Frances

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If you or your company have benefited from MEA programs or incentives, you could be the next feature of our newsletter.

Please submit your story for consideration to meainfo@energy.state.md.us or call our office for more details: 410-260-7655.



Ballard had lived at the same address on Takoma Park's Flower Ave. for more than 30 years. Now, she says, she hardly recognizes the place.

The Gilbert Highlands housing community, Ballard's long-time home, has undergone a complete makeover. The [Montgomery Housing Partnership](#), owners of the building since 2007, received several federal, state and county incentives that made \$5.34 million worth of renovations possible. Not only does the renovation improve the overall energy efficiency of the building and make the residence a great example of sustainable, green construction, but it also created 28 green collar construction jobs.

The Maryland Energy Administration, through the [Maryland Multifamily Energy Efficiency and Housing Affordability \(MEEHA\) program](#), was pleased to contribute \$52,500 to the project. The grant "adds additional energy-saving features we may not have been able to do," says Stephanie Roodman, Senior Project Manager and Legal Counsel for Montgomery Housing Partnership, Inc.

The MEEHA grant helped cover the cost of purchasing 13 SEER HVAC gas-fired furnaces. Additional upgrades throughout the building include new Energy Star-rated appliances and lighting fixtures, individually metered in-unit HVAC systems, reflective roofs and more. The combined upgrades implemented by the project account for an electricity consumption reduction of 58 megawatt hours.

After the renovation, Ballard was able to move back into her new-and-improved, ground-level apartment to enjoy new appliances and take control of her own heating and cooling needs. Now that she can control the temperature of her own apartment, she's able to engage energy efficiency as a part of her daily life. The septuagenarian and all the renters living at the Gilbert Highlands now support Maryland's goal to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent by 2015.

Read more [MEA success stories](#).

Get more information about the [Maryland Energy Administration](#).

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[The Maryland Energy Administration](#) offers a wide variety of resources, strategies and information to help you reduce your energy consumption, increase your understanding of alternative energy, and ultimately help

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